



MAIL STOP ISSUE FEE

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: B. Cobb et al.

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Application No.: 10/698,596

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Filed: October 31, 2003

Examiner: V. Siek

Title: SITE CONTROL FOR OPC

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Seattle, Washington 98101

May 12, 2006

TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS:

REMARKS

In the Notice of Allowance, the Examiner indicated that the language "it is difficult to obtain a minimum edge placement error" recited in Claim 11 means "it is impossible to obtain a minimum edge placement error" or "a minimum edge placement error cannot be achieved." Applicants respectfully submit that the language of Claim 11 is to be given its ordinary and customary meaning as understood by those skilled in the art in light of the invention as it is disclosed in the specification.

For example, in one embodiment disclosed on page 6, lines 15- 18, difficult control sites are identified by determining the distance and angle between a control site and a smoothed polygon. Those control sites having a large distance or angular variation can be eliminated, moved or reoriented. Similarly in the embodiment described on page 7, lines 9 – 31, difficult control sites are identified by comparing the position or angle between a control site and a contour to a threshold. Those control sites having an error that is greater than the threshold are moved, rotated or removed from the polygon.

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Therefore, identifying control sites where it is difficult to obtain a minimum edge placement error can vary depending on design criteria or can be user defined.

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service in a sealed envelope as first class mail with postage thereon fully prepaid and addressed to Mail Stop Issue Fee, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the below date.

Date: May 12, 2006 Sheila B. King

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